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Week 7 Reflection

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My favorite educational philosophies were the student-centered philosophies. In particular I liked progressivism and constructivism. Progressivism is a good philosophy for schooling because it presents a very flexible curriculum for teachers and students. There is a lot of freedom involved in the curriculum instead of just teaching students how to pass state tests. I really like how progressivism is very open-minded to change. The world is changing and evolving everyday and our teaching and schooling should reflect that instead of teaching things that are outdated and unimportant to students and society. Progressivism exposes students to different cultures, issues in society, and real world events. It allows students to look at the big picture and focus on their responsibility to improve society. Progressivism is exciting for students and makes learning worthwhile and interesting. The teaching style is very hands-on and the classroom climate is respectful as students and teachers listen to each other and make decisions together. Overall, I think it is a very engaging and liberated educational philosophy that benefits both students and teachers. It allows students and teachers to work together and focus on the ever changing world and society. Constructivism was also an appealing educational philosophy. I personally like hands-on, activity based teaching and learning so constructivism really stood out for me. I don’t mind lecturing but sometimes it is hard to learn the information and process it when you are trying to focus on sometimes boring information in a 2 hour long class. I think constructivism allows students to actively learn and teachers to actively teach. Constructivism is a problem-based learning which takes a similar stance to progressivism in that it focused on societal problems and students interests. It is a very personalized curriculum for students and teachers. Teachers select problems that are compatible with students intellectual and maturity levels so that no student is at a place where the curriculum is to hard or to easy for them. I really like that students are allowed to be comfortable with what they are learning and that the classroom environment can reflect that comfortability. The teaching style in constructivism allows students to discuss different points of view and introduces diverse learning activities to students. Nowadays schools are become increasingly diverse so it is important that students learn from other students who grew up in different cultures and backgrounds from them. Students are motivated by being able to investigate individual topics that interest them. This is important because it keeps students interested and engaged in their own learning experience. Constructivism clearly values student's voices and ideas and allows students to learn from each other and ask questions and debate through dialogue with other students. I think constructivism creates a very positive schooling environment where every student feels comfortable to share their opinions and ideas and respects the teacher and other student's views and learns from them as well. It reminds me of our classroom because we have discussion every class where we can share our ideas and relate the material to our experiences and things that interest us. We have a very comfortable environment where the class and learning feels personalized because we get to choose what we research (context statement school, school issues etc.) and our teacher helps to mediate and guide our learning and gives us freedom to explore what we are interested in from the required content. I think constructivism and progressivism are both great educational philosophies because they focus on the most important aspect of education, the students. And they allow students and teachers to have an interesting and engaging curriculum that makes learning meaningful and appealing.